

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 609 without my signature.

This bill would require the Department of Developmental Services (DDS) to establish an advisory group to make recommendations to the Legislature on options for retaining the Agnews Developmental Center (Agnews) property or its value for the use of people with developmental disabilities.

DDS established the Advisory Committee on the Proposed Closure of Agnews and the Bay Area Project planning teams, which undertook a long and involved process to ensure that all stakeholders, including those mentioned in this bill, were encouraged to submit input into the Agnews Closure Plan. The Closure Plan, which has received legislative approval, reflects the stakeholder recommendations, including recommendations for the disposition of the Agnews property.

Furthermore, existing law already creates a statewide process for legislative approval of the disposition of state surplus property by the Department of General Services (DGS). The DGS is required to annually report to the Legislature the lands identified as surplus by state agencies and request legislative authorization to dispose of the lands by sale or otherwise. This bill would create a separate process without DGS oversight for the disposition of the Agnews property.

My Administration will continue to work with stakeholders throughout the closure process and welcomes continued discussions about how the State can improve community services provided to people with developmental disabilities.

For these reasons I am unable to sign this measure.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger